



Report on ICUS Open Lecture titled “Considering the Role of ‘Recovery Preparation’ for a Previously Unexperienced Disaster Situation”

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The 32nd ICUS Open Lecture was held on the 27th of May in the S building of IIS. The topics were focused around: “Considering the Role of ‘Recovery Preparation’ for a Previously Unexperienced Disaster Situation”. This was the second lecture held in continuation of last year’s lecture in July focused around the same topic. This time it was cosponsored with the Urban-Safety Affairs Division of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; and was the first step towards the systematic implementation of the “Recovery Image-training” method put forward by Assoc. Prof. Takaaki Kato. A high percentage of the participants this time were government officials, with a total of 110 people participating.

During the Open Lecture, invited speakers who were trialing different methods of ‘Recovery Preparation’ shared their current activities and discussed the future direction of this type of work. It began with Assoc. Prof. Kato’s explanation on “the necessity of Recovery Preparation and significance of Recovery Image-training”, and was followed by the presentations from four municipalities (Saitama prefecture, Saitama city, Chigasaki city, and Nagoya city) which are involved in pioneering activities related to Recovery Preparation about the current state of activities and existing problems. Discussions regarding the implementation method of Recovery Image-training were carried out including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for the 5 municipalities (Kyoto city; Tokushima prefecture; Ebina city, Kanagawa prefecture; Kasugai city, Aichi prefecture; and Saitama city, Saitama prefecture) that are expected to be the model districts for the Ministry’s trial research for Recovery Planning. The round-table discussion layout led to free-and easy-flowing discussions across the room.

On one hand, currently, ‘Recovery Preparation’ does not have a clear position within Japan’s framework of Disaster Planning, and every time a disaster strikes, it presents a situation which is different from before. On the other hand, methods of recovery are becoming obsolete. Therefore it is necessary to consolidate the methods of ‘Recovery Preparation’ so that they reflect the regional characteristics of the areas while also corresponding to the previously unexperienced situation that the disaster can present, and disseminate such methods across the nation.



A photo of the Open Lecture held in S building of IIS.